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theology. Dr. Robertson has the true conception of what a preacher and pastor should be. He has a wholesome dread of multiplying machinery and failing to develop character. He is fully alive to the changes which are passing over the whole activities of the church. He notes the altered doctrinal emphasis in the sermon; the new conception of what a preacher needs to say and to be. He is not afraid to warn his hearers that we are tempted at the present time to refrain from putting "such meaning as there ought to be put into what the Scripture calls the revelation of the 'wrath of God,' or 'the wrath to come.'" Yet he is evidently well read in the theology of today, and he commands a wealth of anecdotes and illustrations which puts life and vigor into his pages, and all the more because he draws from his own resources, and chiefly from his own reading and observation, during many years of pastoral experience.

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Early Israel and the Surrounding Nations. By Rev. A. H. Sayce, Professor of Assyriology at Oxford. (New York: E. R. Herrick & Co., 1899; pp. xxvii + 337; \$1.50.) Professor Sayce's popular little books on ancient oriental history and archæology are being turned out at the rate of one or more a year with great regularity. Each succeeding one serves up the old material with a few new facts and hypotheses in so clever a way that we have to buy it and enjoy the reading thereof. The absence of references, the repetitiousness, and the want of an index are unscholarlike and evidence the haste and carelessness with which these books are prepared. It is unnecessary to call attention to the assertion of unfounded new theories and the tacit withdrawal of old ones which these successive volumes disclose. They are essentially ephemeral affairs.—*The Messages of the Later Prophets:* arranged in the order of time, analyzed and freely rendered in paraphrase. By Frank Knight Sanders, Ph.D., and Charles Foster Kent, Ph.D. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1899; pp. xx + 382; \$1.25.) The success of this series has been assured by the popular favor shown to the former volume, *Messages of the Earlier Prophets*. And why should it not be successful, since its clearly written introductions, admirable plan, careful analysis, and well-wrought paraphrase open up the secret of Old Testament prophetic literature in a thorough and satisfactory way? Some may object to placing Joel and

Jonah among the "later prophets," as is here done, and others may quarrel with other critical views of the authors. But the value of the book does not rest upon the critical positions taken by them, but upon the light which is thrown upon the writings themselves by the paraphrase and notes. The prophets thus handled here are Ezekiel, Isaiah, chaps. 40-66, Joel, Obadiah, Jonah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, besides some isolated passages in Jeremiah and Isaiah, chaps. 1-39.—G. S. GOODSPEED.

Mélanges d'histoire et de littérature religieuse. Par Jacques Thomas. Recueillis et publiés par l'Institut Catholique de Toulouse. (Paris: Librairie Victor Lecoffre, 1899; pp. xxxi + 349.) This is a collection of posthumous papers of the brilliant and saintly Jacques Thomas who occupied the chair of Holy Scriptures at the Catholic Institute of Toulouse from 1881-93. The introduction, prepared by Pierre Batiffol, rector of the institute, is a sketch of the life of M. Thomas. He pictures in glowing terms the zeal and earnestness of a man whose spiritual and intellectual life was an ornament and an inspiration to the church. The intensity of his efforts was heightened by the fact that he was running a hopeless race with a fatal disease. He made every stroke count, and did a truly heroic service for the cause of biblical learning among his own church-men. The papers that constitute this volume have all appeared in earlier years, in one or other of the French Catholic journals. The largest and most elaborate, showing at the same time the scholarly instincts and popular character of his work, is a treatise of almost 200 pages on "The Church and the Jews in the Age of the Apostles." His familiarity with the literature of the subject, his fairness of treatment, and his clear statement of results make it a permanent contribution to the subject. Of the remaining eight themes, the most notable are "An Introduction to the Study of Hebrew," "A Plan of Study on the Prophets," and "A Study of Isaiah." It is apparent that, if M. Thomas had lived out his three-score and ten years, instead of laying down his work at thirty-nine, he would have done an inestimable service for his church in methods of Scripture study and investigation.—*A Short History of the Hebrew Text of the Old Testament.* By Thomas H. Weir, B.D., Assistant to Professor of Oriental Languages in the University of Glasgow. (London: Williams & Norgate, 1899; pp. xv + 149; 5s.) The Hebrew Bible of today presents many troublesome Massoretic points to the non-professional Hebraist. Mr. Weir's little book aims to